



New Soy-lutions for Sustainability in Automotive Applications

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U-Mass Amherst, IGERT Lecture Series
February 26, 2009



Roadmap



- **Why biomaterials?**
- **Historical perspective**
- Soy foam research and development
- Soy foam implementation
- Soy meal applications
- Looking ahead



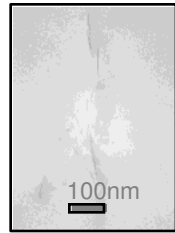
**Photo by Scott Bauer,
courtesy of USDA**



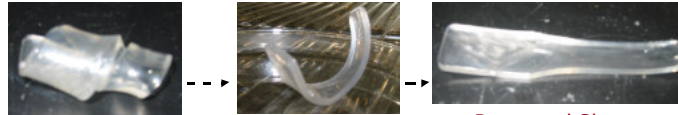
Novel Materials

Develop materials that are lighter in weight, cost effective, greater performance, and provide a competitive advantage

- Nanocomposites
- Shape Memory Polymer



Exfoliated PP/clay nanocomposite



Deformed Shape

Recovered Shape

Biomaterials

Develop materials from renewable crops that can replace petroleum-based plastics and will also reduce weight and cost

- Soy Based Polyurethane Foams
- Natural Fiber Composites
- PLA



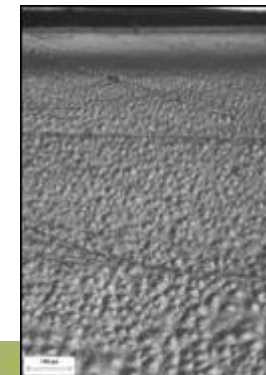
Ford N.A. Plastics Research

Objective: Develop novel materials and processing techniques supporting lightweight, sustainable, high performance automotive plastics

Polymer Processing Optimization

Optimize polymer processing through the use of effective models and novel processing methods. Understand the relationships between processing, microstructure, and performance.

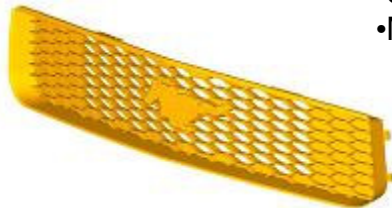
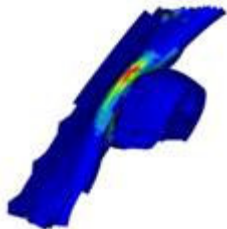
- Virtual Plastics Processing
- Aluminum Tooling for Injection Molding
- Super Critical Fluid Processing
- MuCell



High Strain Rate Performance

Optimize materials selection and materials-based design for impact applications

- Flex
- Tensile
- Impact





Why Biomaterials? Why Now?

- Increased use of renewable feedstocks and agricultural products
- Reduce dependence on foreign petroleum (\$150 barrel ?)
- Reduce the negative effects on human health and the environment
 - respiratory illnesses
 - carbon sequestration
- Improved performance in select functions
- Increased consumer awareness





Ford's Commitment



"Ford is committed to offering customers affordable, **environmentally friendly technologies** in vehicles they really want. We are focused on providing solutions that can be used not for hundreds or thousands of cars, but for millions of cars because that is how Ford can truly make a difference."

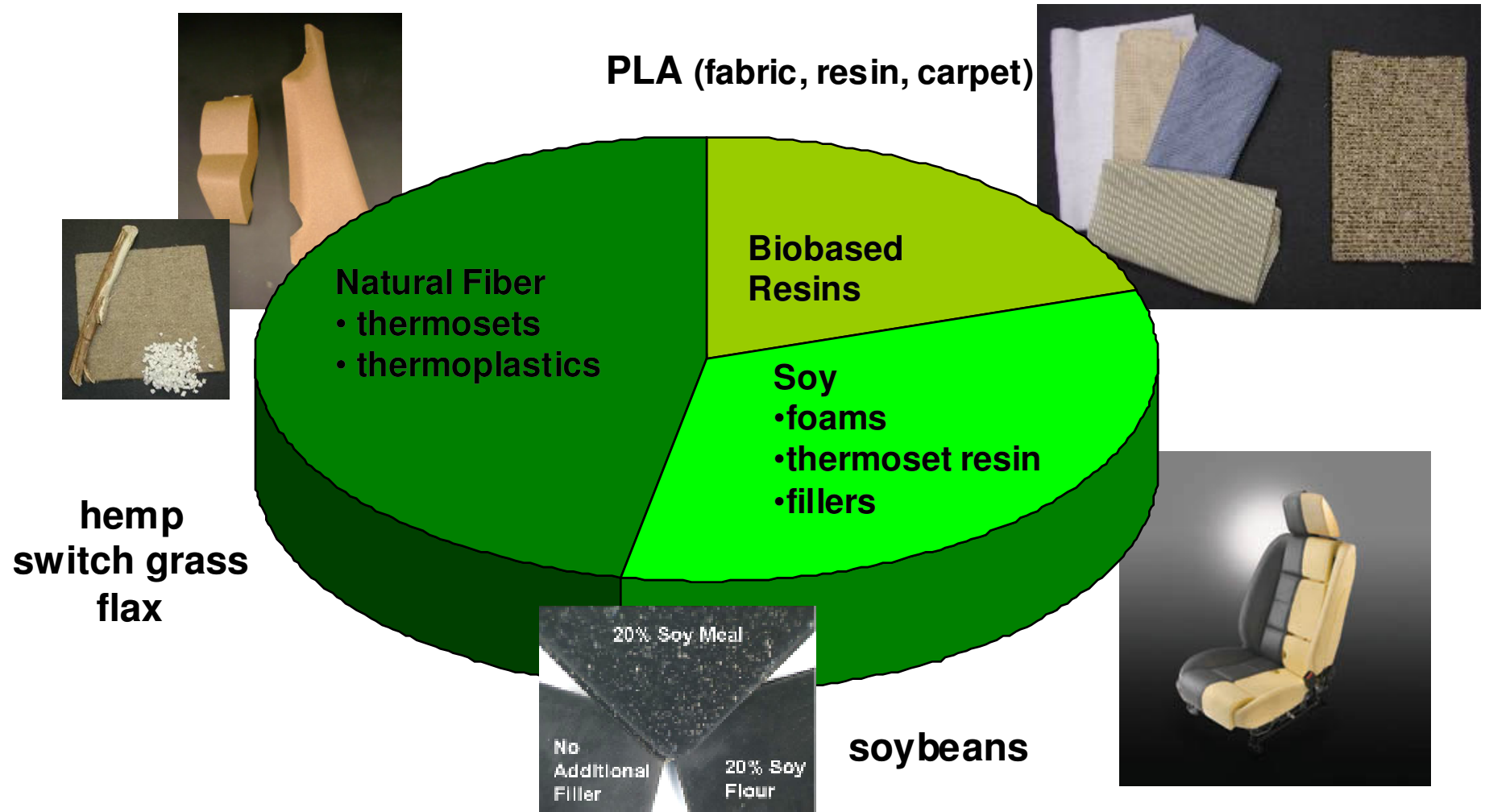


-Alan Mulally
President & CEO
Ford Motor Company





Ford Biomaterials Overview





Soybeans have been part of Ford Motor Company's history...



Henry Ford testing the impact strength of a soy flour composite decklid, 1940.

- Henry Ford's "cars growing from the ground" project
- Investigated crops for fuels, plastics and textiles





Henry Ford's Interest in Soybeans



- Henry Ford spent \$1.25 Million from 1932-1933 to research soy crops
- 7,400 acres of Ford soybeans farms in Southeastern Michigan
- Ford established soy processing plant at the Rouge





Current Interest in Bio-materials

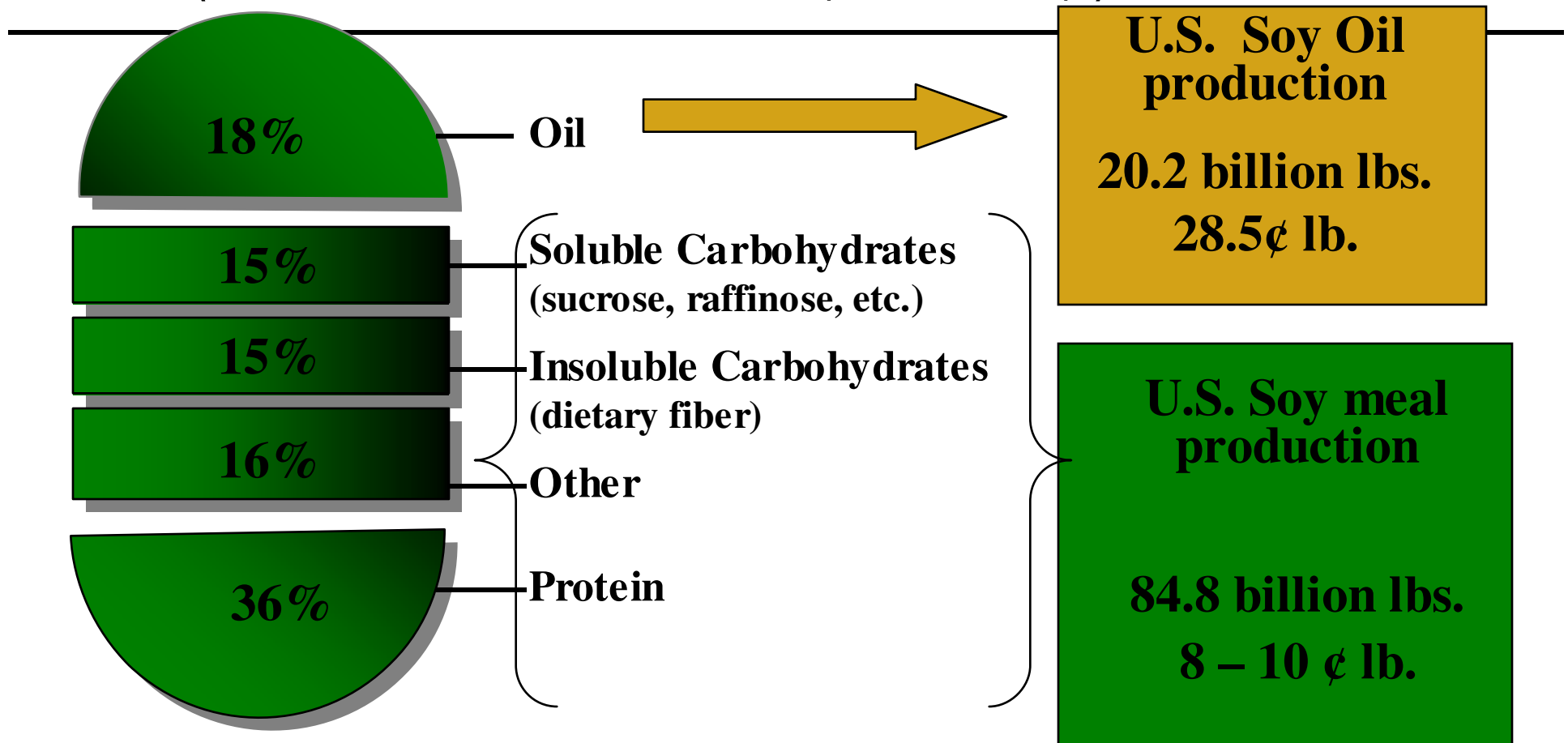
- Reduced environmental footprint
- Increased use of renewable feedstocks and agricultural products
- Reduce dependence on foreign petroleum
- Competitive pricing of soy products versus petroleum products
- Marketing differentiation





Soybean Statistics

(Source: USDA from 2006 soybean crop)



Increase in bio-diesel demand has resulted in excess in soy meal availability.

* Reference www.soystats.com



Using Soybeans in Plastics



SOYBEANS

Soy Resin

Sheet
Molding
Compound



Soy Polyol

Polyurethane
Foam



Soy Meal

Reinforced
Rubber





Roadmap



- Why biomaterials?
- Historical perspective
- **Soy foam research and development**
- Soy foam implementation
- Soy meal applications
- Looking ahead



Photo by Scott Bauer,
courtesy of USDA





Soy-Based Foam Technology

- Can we use oil from soybeans to make seats?
- Technology Overview: Use of soy polyol in formulating flexible polyurethane foam for seating applications.

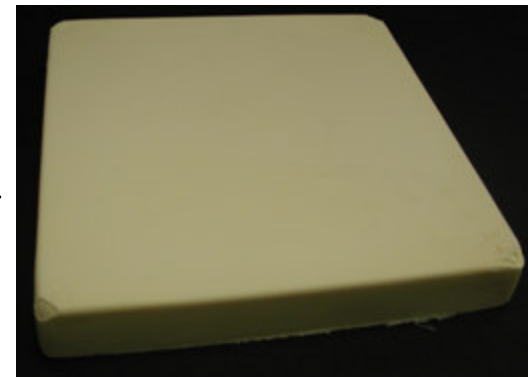
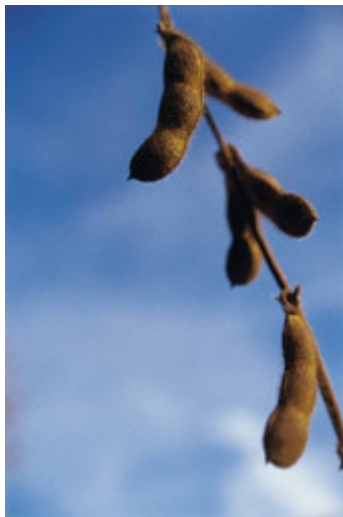


Photo by Lynn Betts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.





Soy-Based Foam Benefits

- Reduction of environmental footprint (CO_2 improvement)
 - For 1kg polyol produced: soy removes 2kg CO_2 , petro increases 3.5kg CO_2
- Use of renewable resource (soy) to decrease U.S. dependency on petroleum
- Competitive pricing of soy products versus petroleum products
- Ability to migrate technology across all vehicle lines
- Marketing differentiation of products





Life Cycle Analysis: Soy vs. Petroleum

Source: “Soy vs.
Petro Polyols: A Life
Cycle Comparison”

James Pollack, USB
TAP Meeting April
2006

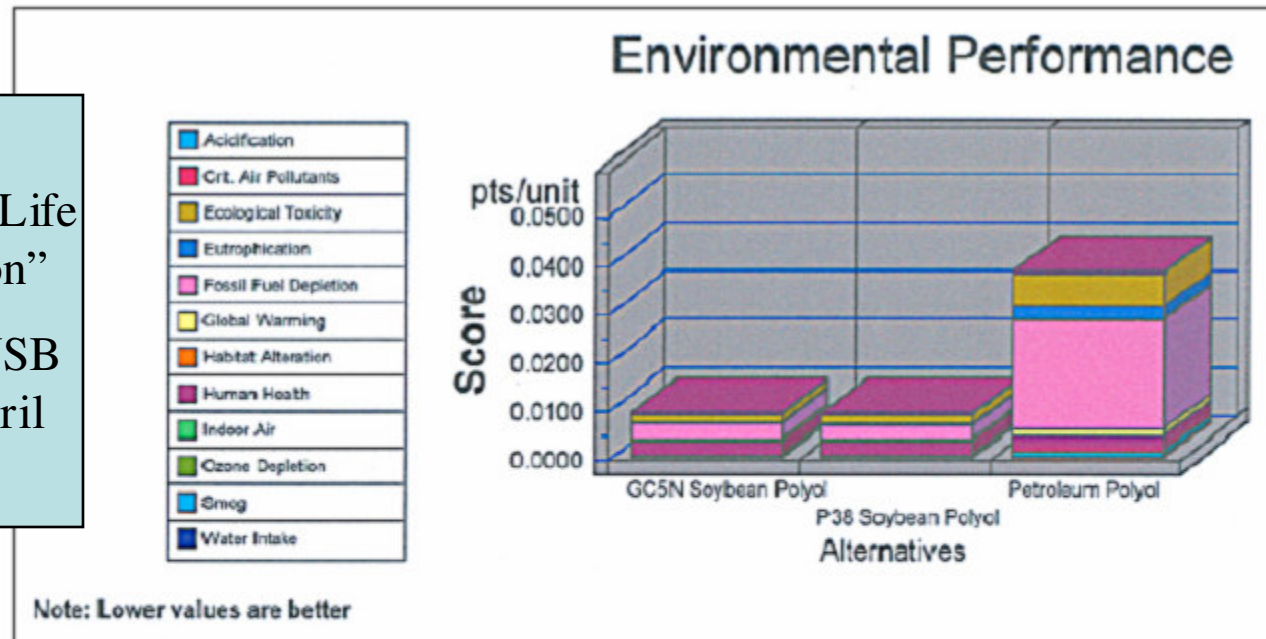


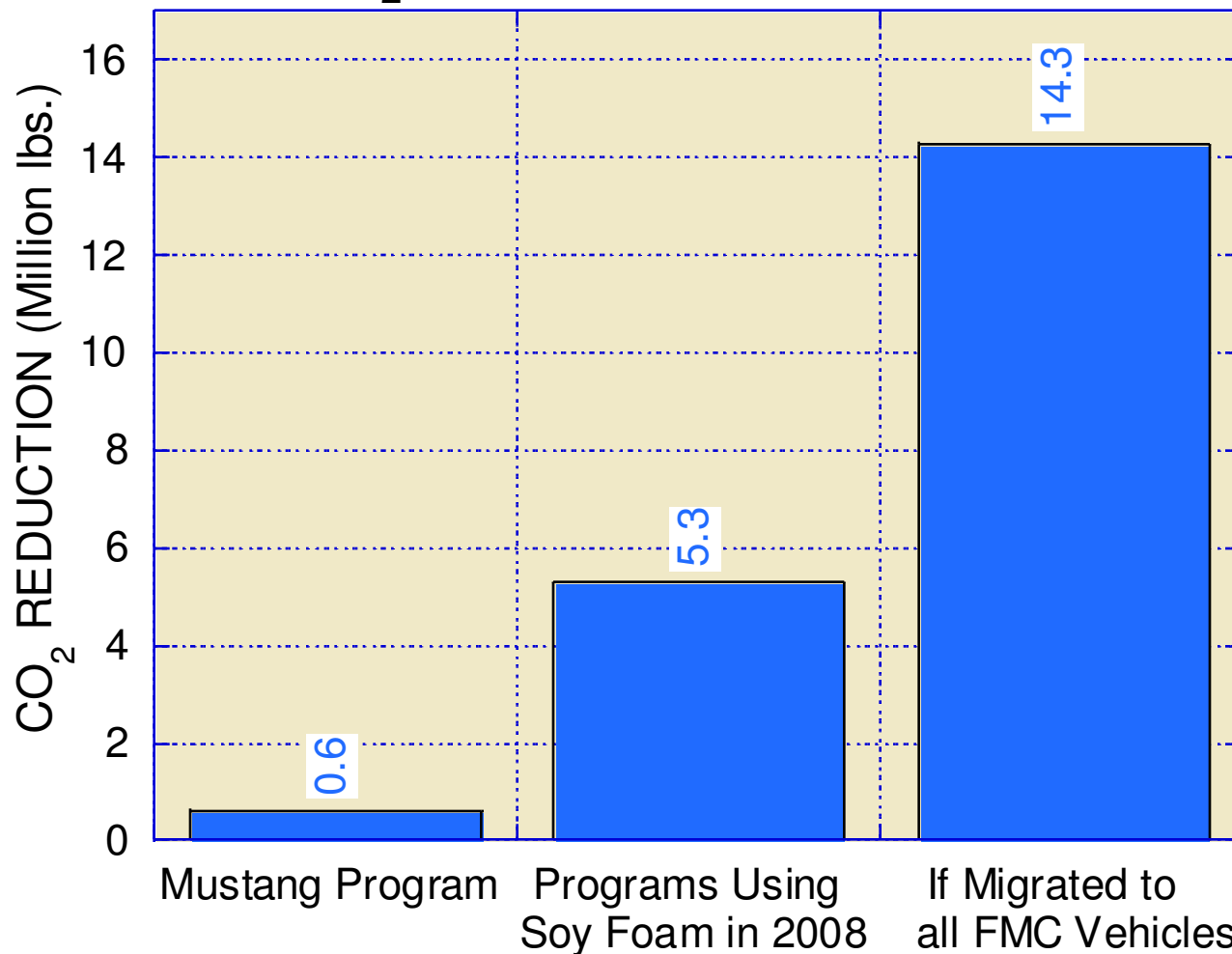
Figure 3

The difference in global warming potential is due to the CO_2 being taken up (sequestered) during the soybean agriculture phase. Excerpts from the soy and petro polyol LCI spreadsheets (Figure 4) show over 2 kg of CO_2 being taken out of the atmosphere per kg of soy polyol produced. In contrast, the LCI shows over 3.5 kg of CO_2 added to the atmosphere per kg of petro polyol produced.



Soy-Based PU Foam: Environmental Benefit

Net CO₂ Decrease by Using Soy Foam



- Chart shows seat back and cushion applications only; potential for greater impact with all foam applications
- Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions (life cycle analysis)
- Use of sustainable, agricultural materials





What are Soy Polyols?

- Functionalized soybean oil used in reaction with isocyanate to form urethane linkage
- Soybean oil is a triglyceride with fatty acid distribution including:
 - 23.4% Oleic Acid (18 C: 1 double bond)
 - 53.2% Linoleic Acid (18 C: 2 double bonds)
- Various methods have been used to functionalize soy oil:
 - Blown with air and heat and/or catalyst
 - Ozonolysis
 - Epoxidation
 - Hydroformylation



Potential Applications



- Soft, Flexible PU Foam
 - Seating Foam
 - Seat Back
 - Seat Cushion
 - Head Rest
 - Instrument Panel Foam
 - Headliner Foam
 - Arm Rest Foam
- Rigid PU Foam
 - Package Tray





Potential Agricultural Usage



~90 Million
lbs. foam

2.9 Million Vehicles ~30 lbs. foam/ vehicle



54 Million lbs. polyol



Assume: 20% soy
polyol in blend



Photo
courtesy
of USDA

11 Million lbs.
soy polyol



Soy Polyurethane Chemistry



Polyols (Soy, Petroleum)
Blowing Agent
Surfactants
Chain Extenders
Catalysts

Soy Polyol Blend

OH-R-OH



Replacing up to 40% of
Petroleum Polyol with
Soy Polyol



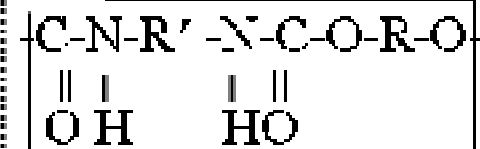
+

diisocyanate

OCN-R'-NCO



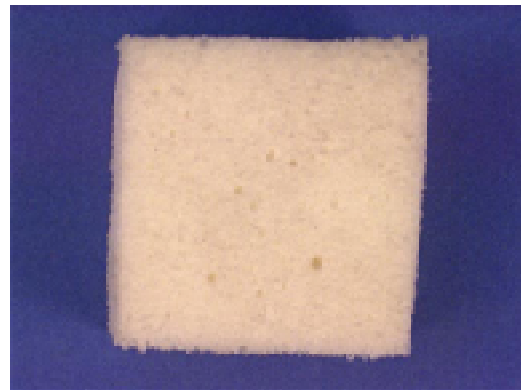
Soy-Based
Polyurethane
Foam



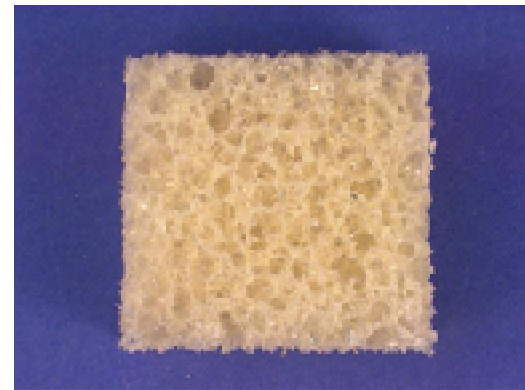
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Microstructure of Soy Foams Prior to Formulation Optimization



Petrolaurn Foam
(0% Soy Polyol)

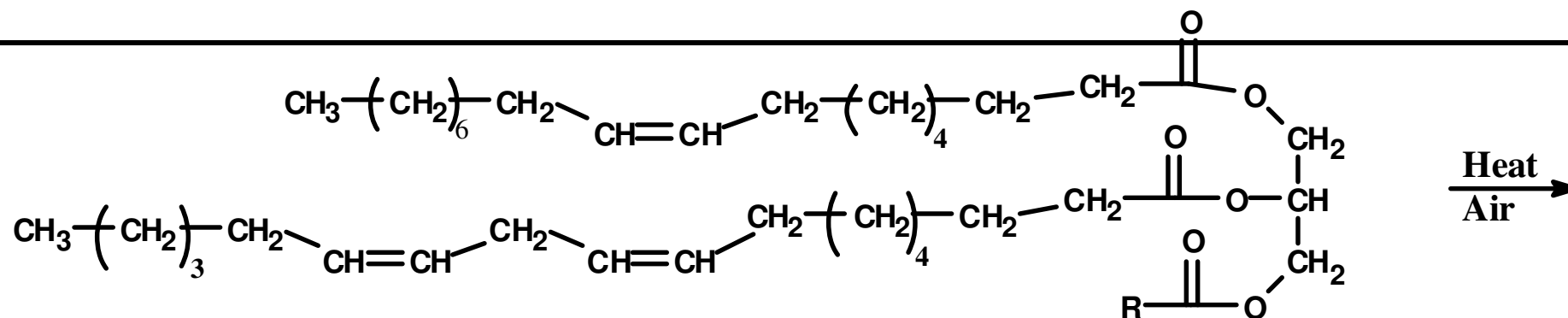


Soy Foam
(25% Soy Polyol)

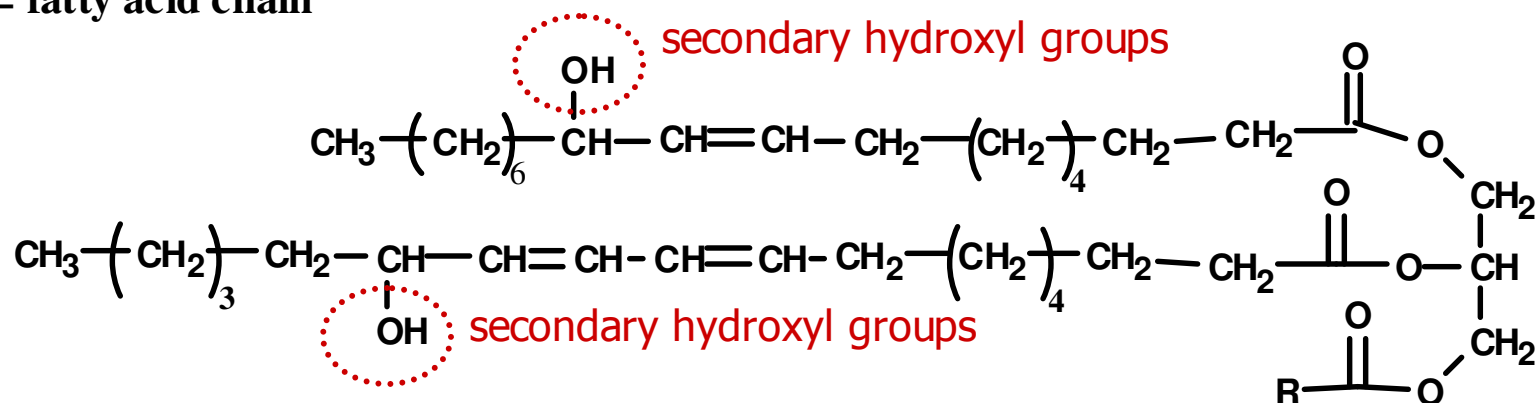




What's Happening?



R = fatty acid chain



+

Aldehydes, Ketones, Epoxides, Acids, etc.

* From Ann R. Fornof and Timothy E. Long "Synthesis and Characterization of Polyols via Air Oxidation of Triglycerides"



Key Technical Challenges

- **Formulations:**

- Optimizing formulation for levels of soy used
- Balancing gel/blow reactions for soy formulation
- Blend stability between bio-polyol and petroleum-polyol

- **Odor:**

- Odor of blown soy oil and resulting foam

- **Properties:**

- Passing material specifications
- Meeting performance and plant requirements





Formulation Development Process



1. Polyol and additives are mixed together

2. Add iso to polyol blend and pour in mold



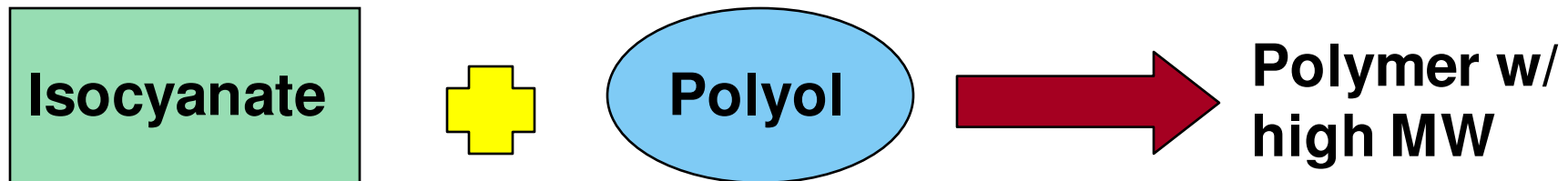
3. Evaluate "foaming" characteristics



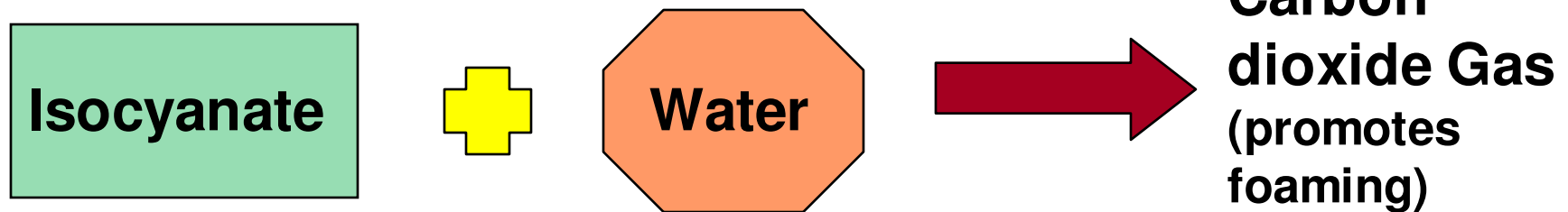


Balancing Gel and Blow Reactions

Reaction 1: Gel Reaction



Reaction 2: Blow Reaction



If $R2 \gg R1$, CO_2 evolution too rapid compared to gel reaction, **foam collapses**.

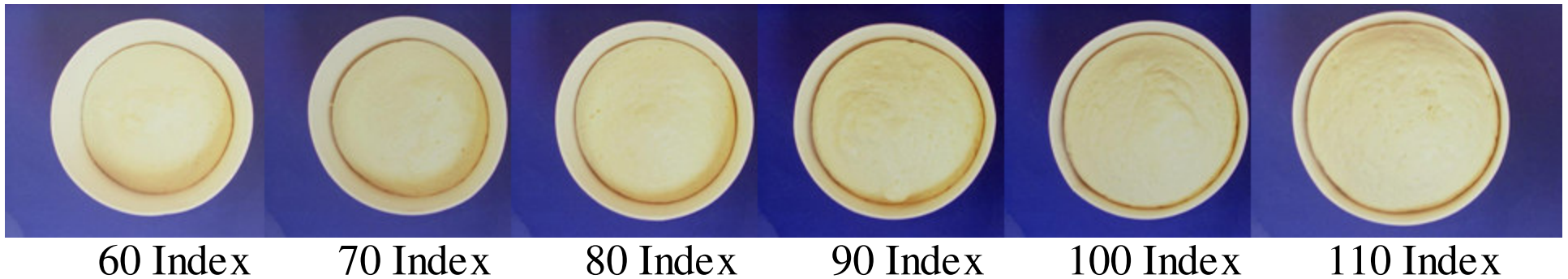
If $R1 \gg R2$, gel extension reaction too rapid compared with CO_2 generation, foam rise is restricted and will **form high density foam**.



How can we improve the foam?



Changing Index, 50% Soy Polyol



Changing Percent Soy Polyol, 70 Index





Optimizing Properties Through DOEs



	StdOrder	RunOrder	Blocks	Index	S8715 (g)	S5943 (g)
Control				100	1.0	0.10
1	1	1	1	80	0.5	0.05
2	2	2	1	80	0.5	0.10
3	3	3	1	80	0.5	0.50
4	4	4	1	80	1.0	0.05
5	5	5	1	80	1.0	0.10
6	6	6	1	80	1.0	0.50
7	7	7	1	80	1.5	0.05
8	8	8	1	80	1.5	0.10
9	9	9	1	80	1.5	0.50
10	10	10	1	90	0.5	0.05
11	11	11	1	90	0.5	0.10
12	12	12	1	90	0.5	0.50
13	13	13	1	90	1.0	0.05
14	14	14	1	90	1.0	0.10
15	15	15	1	90	1.0	0.50
16	16	16	1	90	1.5	0.05
17	17	17	1	90	1.5	0.10
18	18	18	1	90	1.5	0.50
19	19	19	1	100	0.5	0.05
20	20	20	1	100	0.5	0.10
21	21	21	1	100	0.5	0.50
22	22	22	1	100	1.0	0.05
23	23	23	1	100	1.0	0.10
24	24	24	1	100	1.0	0.50
25	25	25	1	100	1.5	0.05
26	26	26	1	100	1.5	0.10
27	27	27	1	100	1.5	0.50

Index – ratio of polyol to isocyanate (100=one-to-one ratio, below 100=excess polyol, etc.)

S8715 – surfactant; controls/stabilizes size of gas bubbles; lowers surface tension of iso/polyol

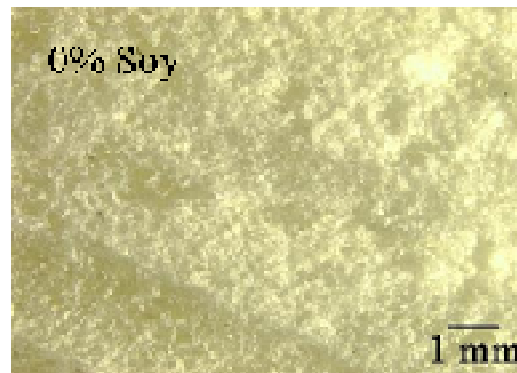
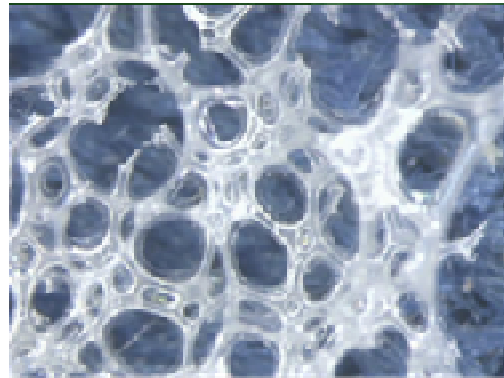
S5943 – surfactant; enables fine, consistent cells in foam; provides consistent air flow through foam



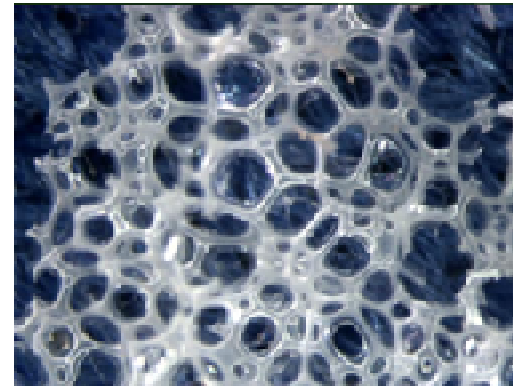
Optimized Polyurethane Foam: Optical Micrographs



**Petroleum
Foam**



**Soy-Based
Foam**



- Similar appearance in microstructure
- Open celled foams, as desired for seating foam





Microstructure looks good ... now what?

Odor, fogging and staining are 3 key issues!

- **Concern:** “rancid” odor detected in soy foam by foam odor panelists; cause for material rejection
- **Cause:** low molecular weight side products in polyol produce odor
- **Technical accomplishments:**
 - Masking of odor through addition of volatile fragrances and neutralizing agents
 - Encapsulation of foam with gas impermeable layers
 - Ultraviolet light synthesis method
 - Stripping of polyol with thin film evaporation method





Industry Standard for Evaluating Odors: SAE J1351



Ford R&A Odor Test Panel

Testing Process:

- Foams cut to 1" x 0.5" x 5"
- Samples placed in sealed jar
- Conditioned 1hr. at 70 °C
- Odor evaluated by 5 panelists

Odor Ratings

- 1= No Noticeable Odor
- 2= Slight, but Noticeable Odor
- 3= Definite Odor, but Not Strong Enough to be Offensive
- 4= Strong Offensive Odor
- 5= Very Strong Offensive Odor

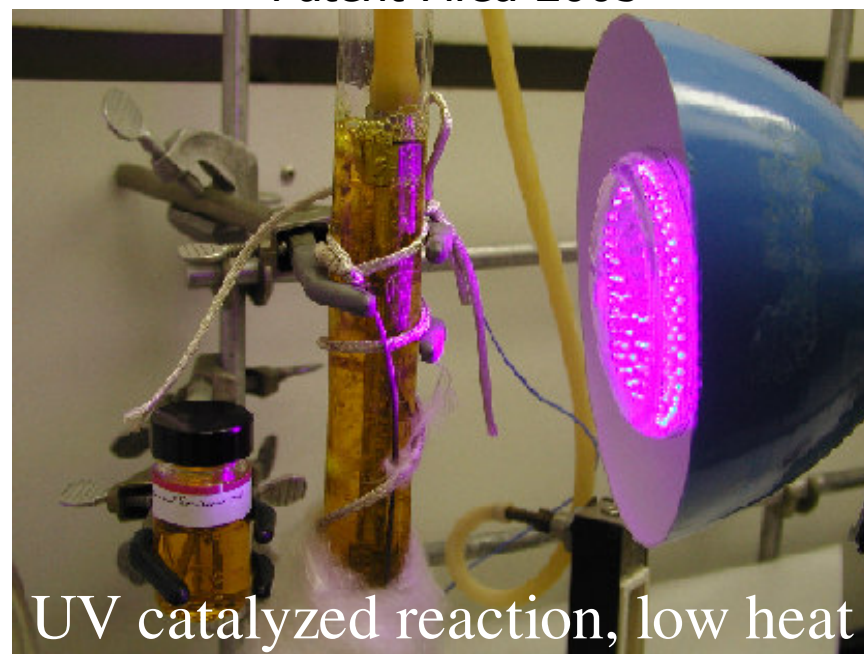


New Synthetic Route for Soy Polyol



- Reaction Set Up:
 - Degummed soy oil placed in quartz long glass column
 - Column heated to 100F
 - Air bubbled through column
 - UV light applied to column in range 290-350nm
- Process:
 - Initiation of reaction as hydroperoxides form
 - Increase in hydroxyl number, visually seen with color change from amber to pale yellow
 - Termination of reaction at hydroxyl number ~50 by removing heat and switching from air to nitrogen gas flow.

Patent Filed 2005



UV catalyzed reaction, low heat

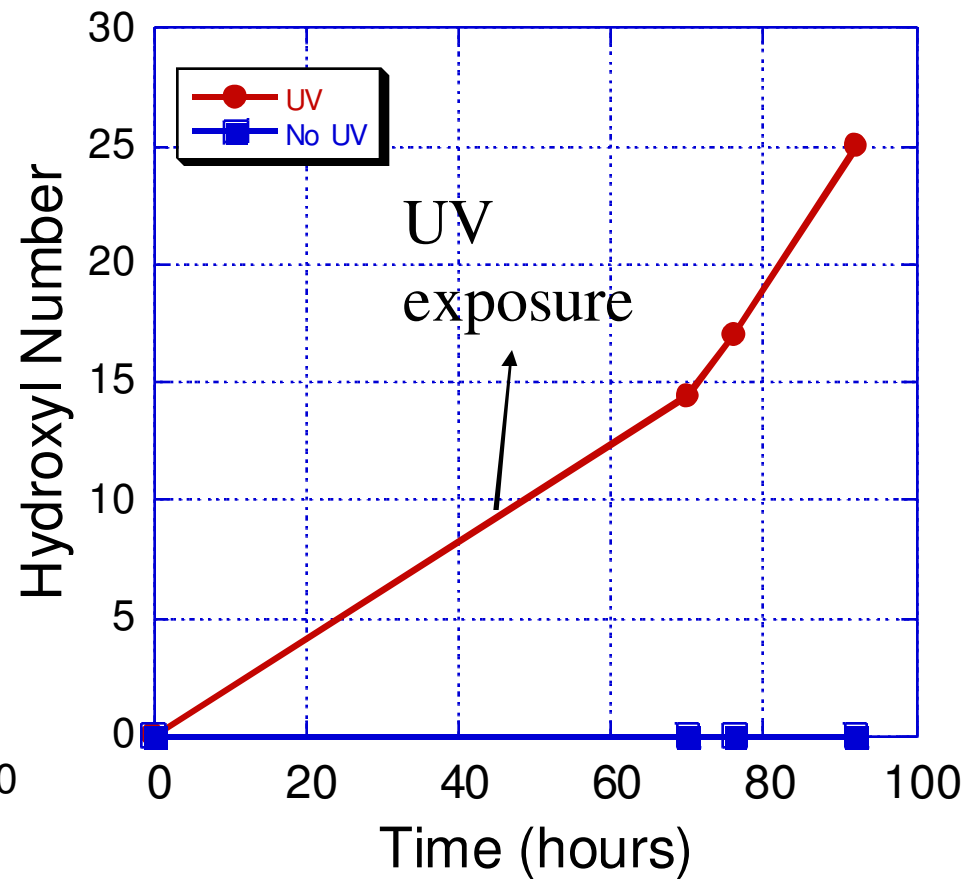
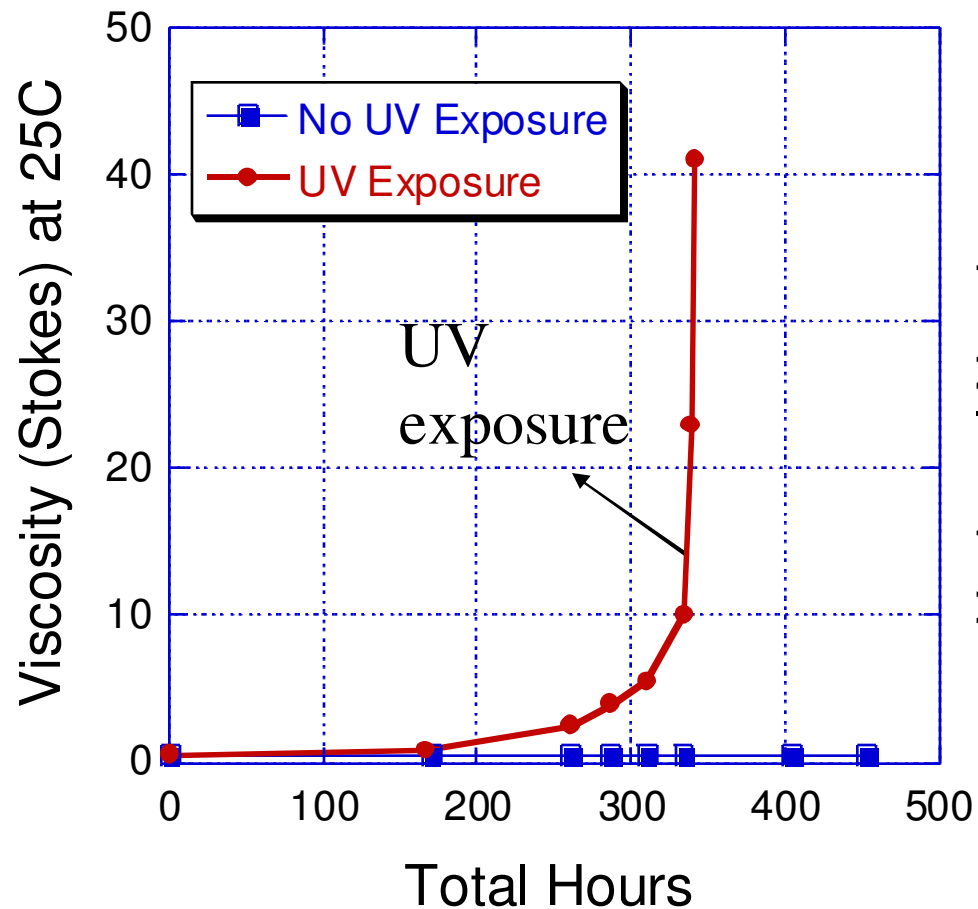
Low odor

Simple Method

Inexpensive

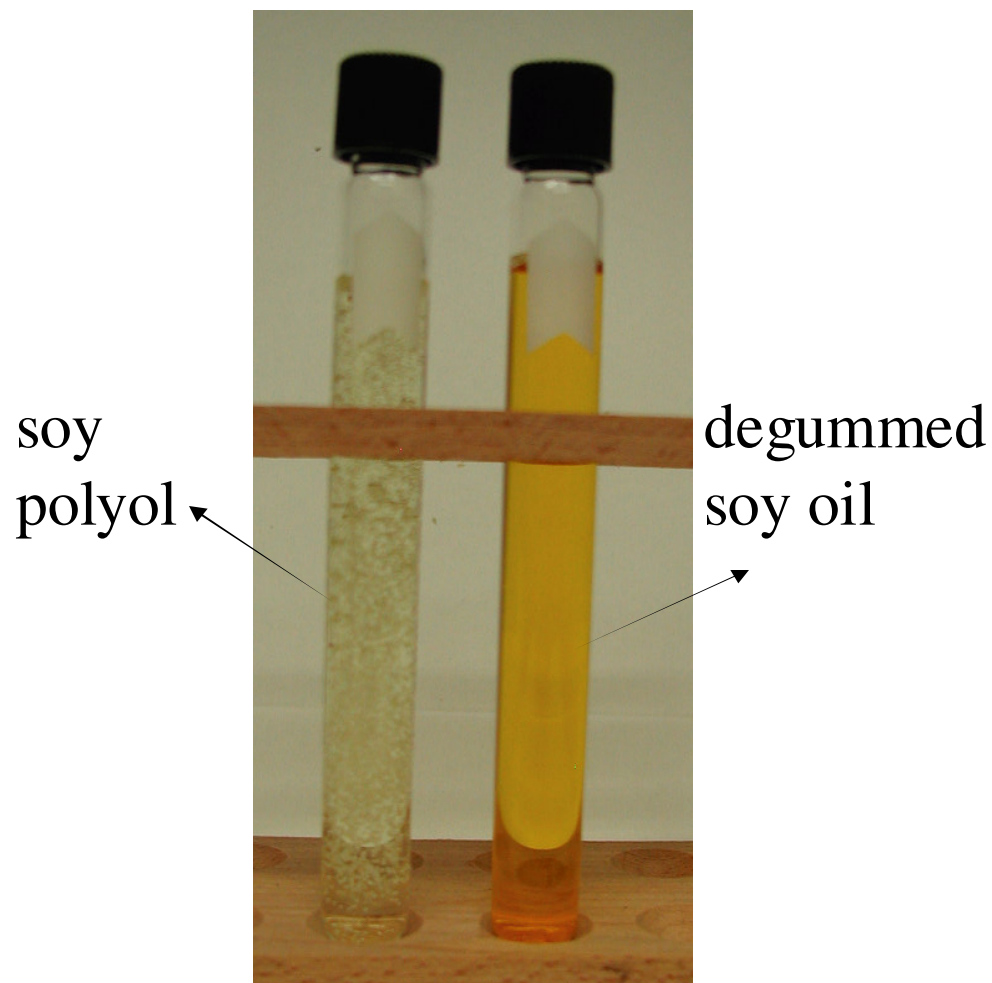


Synthesis of Soy Polyol





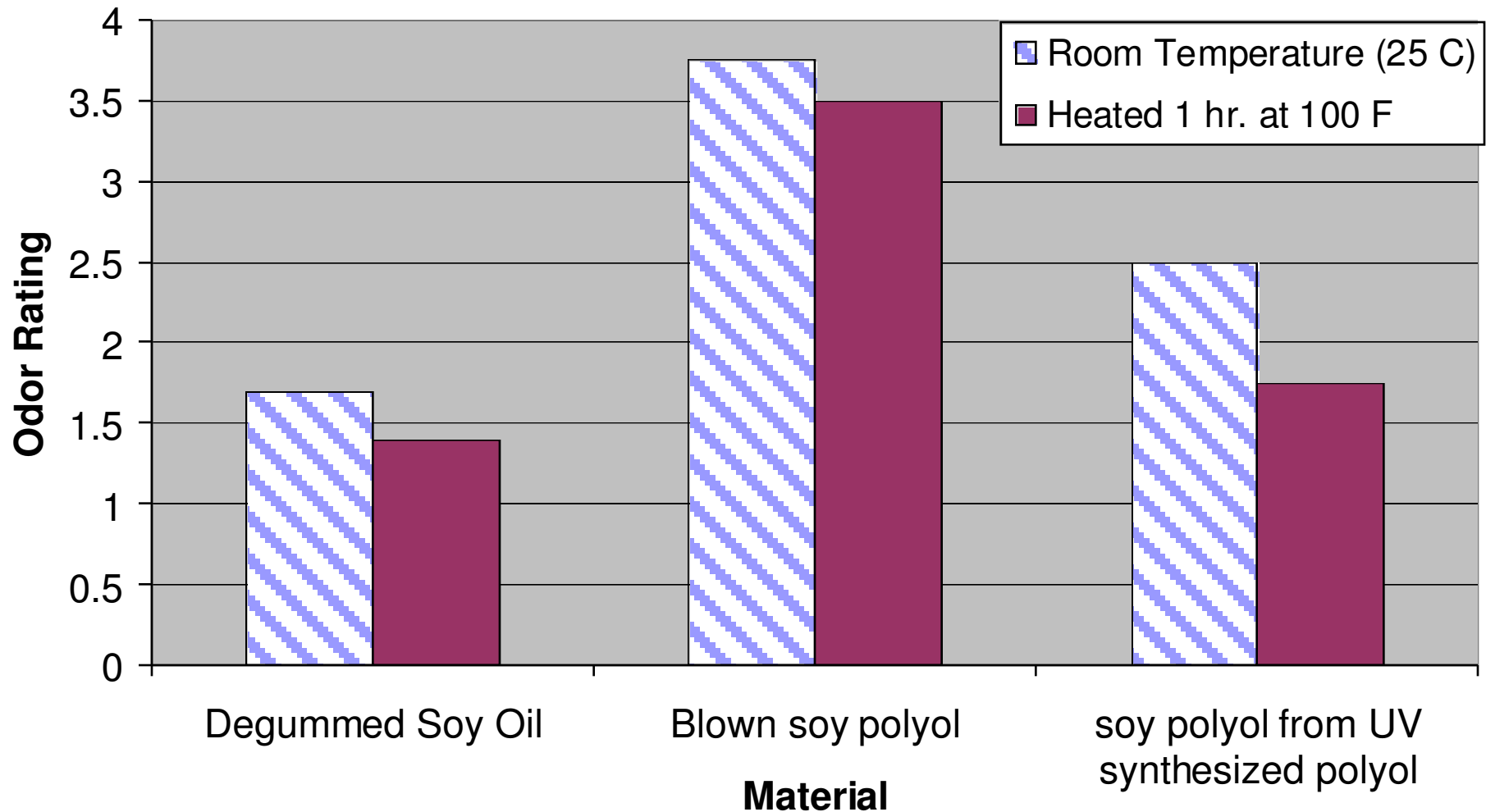
UV Catalyzed Soy Polyol



Analysis	"UV" Crude Polyol
Hydroxyl Number (mgKOH/g)	47
Color (Gardner)	1
Viscosity (cps)	2700
Acid Value (mgKOH/g)	5.4
Karl Fischer Water (%)	0.064



Odor of Oils: Commercial vs. UV Polyols





Wiped Film Evaporator Process



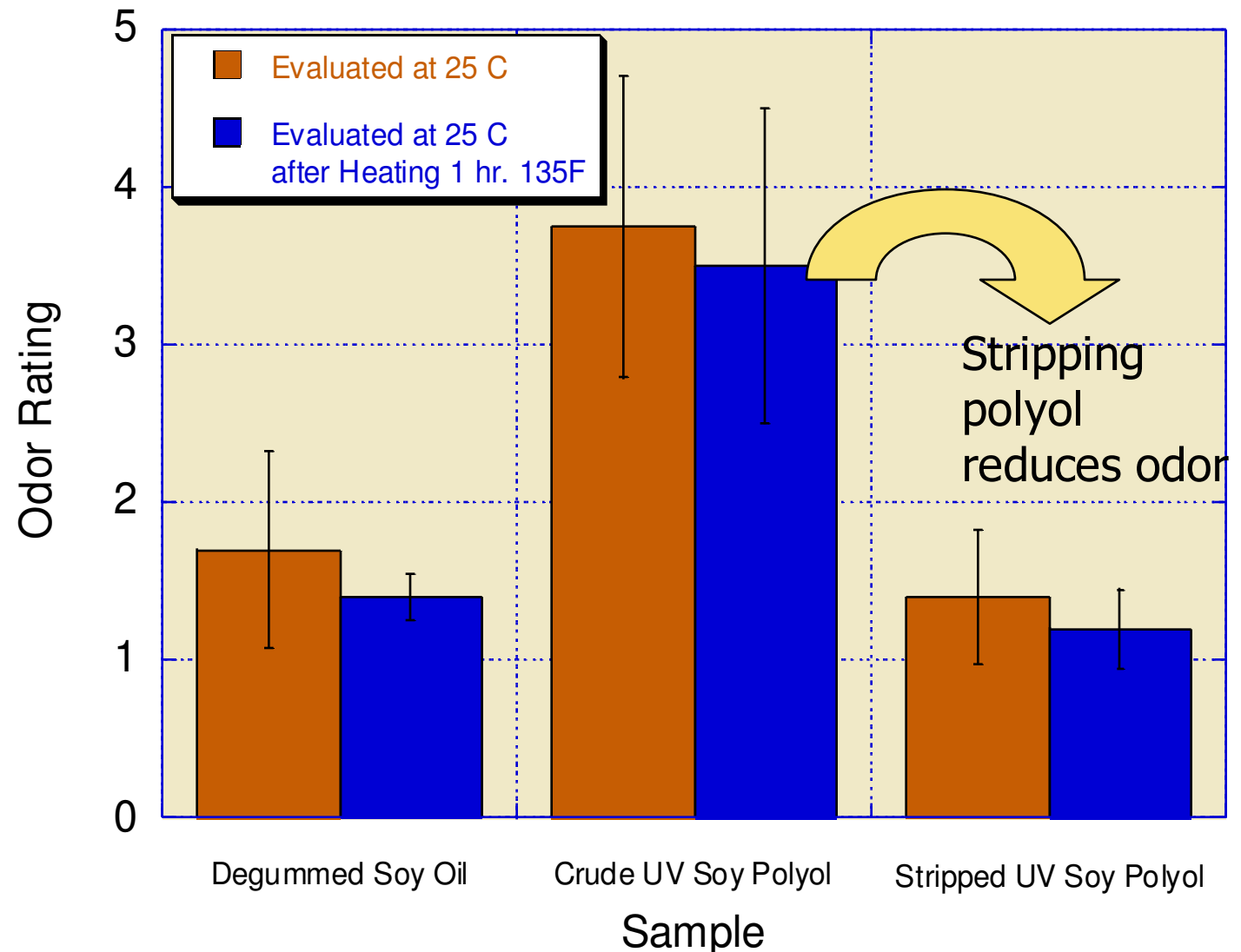
- Completed trial using WFE to “clean up” the soy polyols
- Determined optimized processing temperature for odor reduction (double pass through equipment at 190C)
- Conducted odor tests on Ford’s polyols





Using WFE to Improve Odor

Polyol sample was stripped of low molecular weight volatiles using a Wiped Film Evaporator Technique





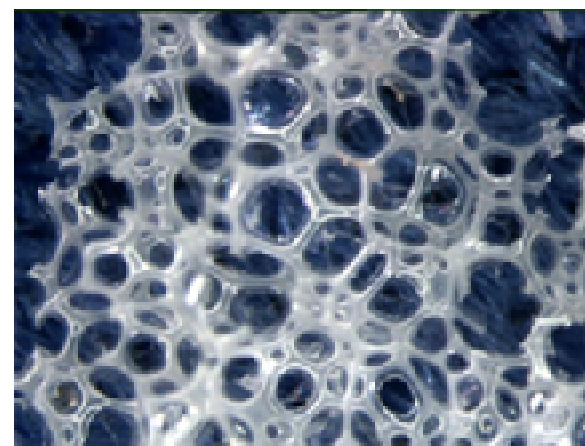
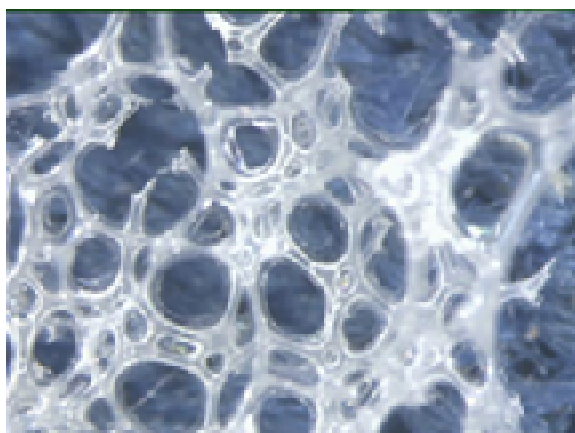
Formulation Development: Typical Soy Foam Formulation

Components with Parts by Weight

☼ Soybean Oil Polyol	40
☼ Petroleum Polyol	60
☼ Water	3-4
☼ Multiple Silicone Surfactants	1-1.5
☼ Multiple Amine Catalysts	0.5-1.0
☼ Cross-Linker	0.25-0.35
☼ Isocyanate	100 Index

Design of
Experiments
for
Optimization

Petroleum



40% Soy





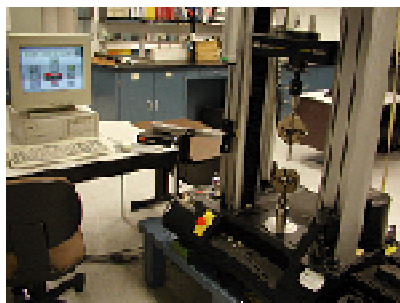
Isocyanate Comparison

Property	MDI	TDI
Name	Methylene diphenyl diisocyanate	Toluene diisocyanate
Component*	European seats, N.A. headrests and armrests	North American seats
Foam Attribute	Thin, firm seats (favorable hardness/density)	Cushioning, plush seat (high tensile strength)
Maximum % of soy	40%	5%
Health/ Environment Assessment (MSDS)	Moderate	Serious

*Asia Pacific uses TDI/MDI blend for seats



Required Property Tests of New Foam Formulations








- Density
- Optical Microscopy
- Tensile Strength, Elongation
- Compressive Modulus
- Tear Resistance
- Compression Set
(50% deflection at 70°C, 22hrs.)
- Fogging
- Odor



Ford R&A Lab Scale Soy Foam Properties



40% soy polyol in polyol blend in MDI formulation

Ford Spec. Test	Density (kg/m ³)	Compression Set at 50% Deflection	Tensile Strength (kPa)	Elongation (%)	Tear Resistance (N/m)
Benchmark	40	< 14%	> 110	> 100	> 170
40% Soy Foam	37 	11 	113 	100 	190 

Formulation Patent Application Filed 2005



Demonstrating Soy Foam Seats on Model U Concept Vehicle



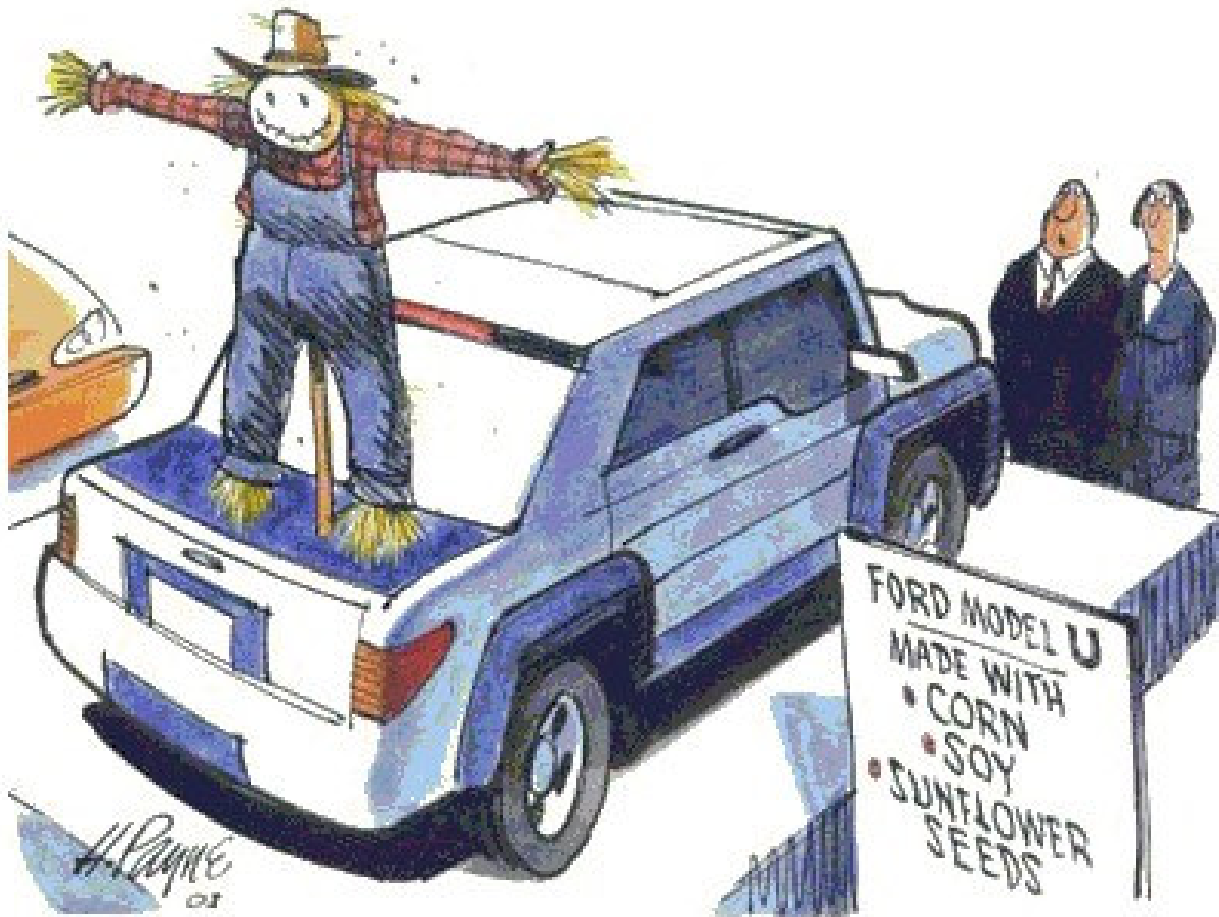
A Model for Change

Model U





Future of Biomaterials



"With all the crop-based materials, we added a scarecrow option to keep the crows away."

Henry Payne,
Detroit Free Press



Roadmap



- Why biomaterials?
- Historical perspective
- Soy foam research and development
- **Soy foam implementation**
- Soy meal applications
- Looking ahead

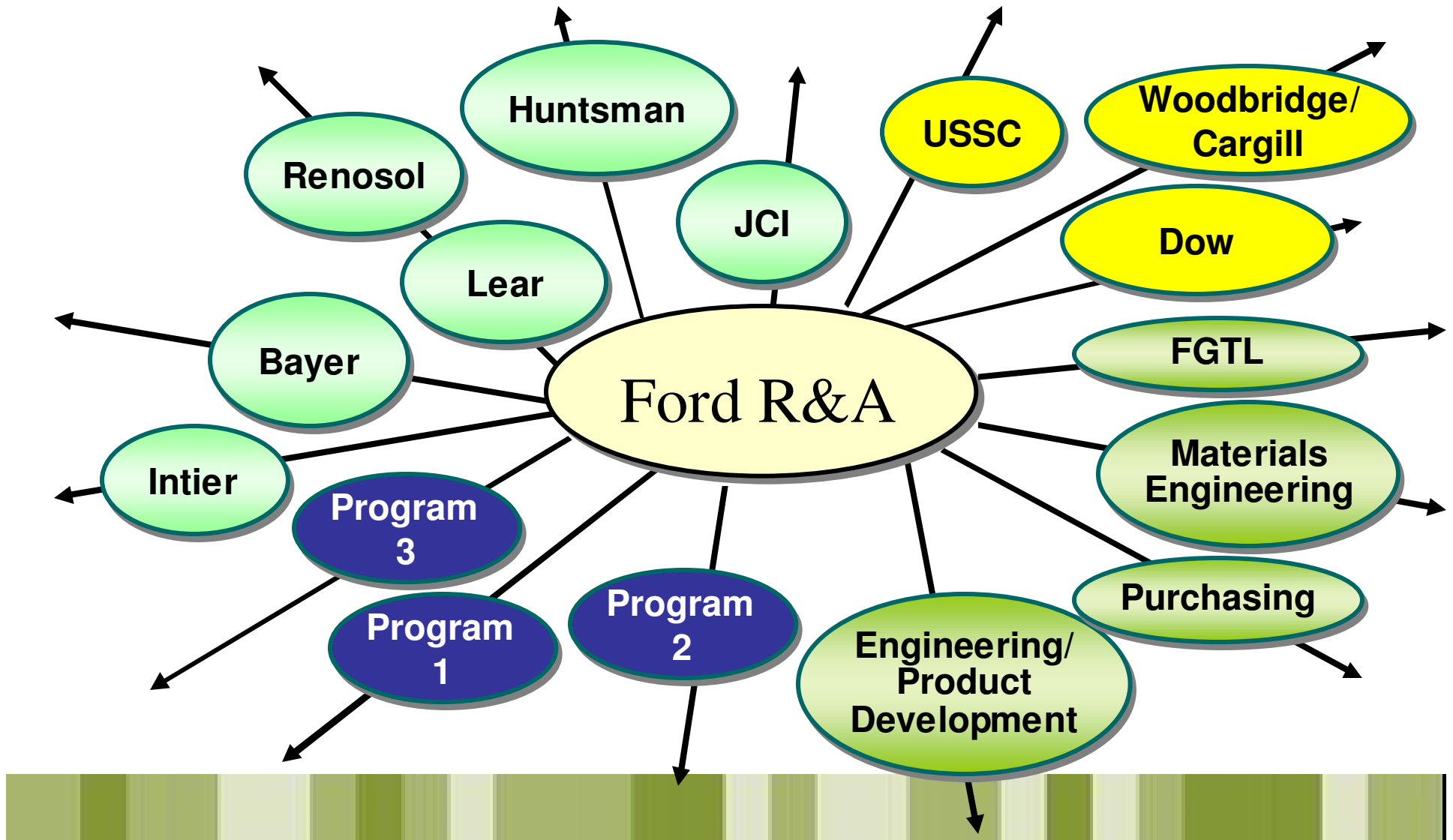


Photo by Scott Bauer,
courtesy of USDA





Teamwork to Move Forward

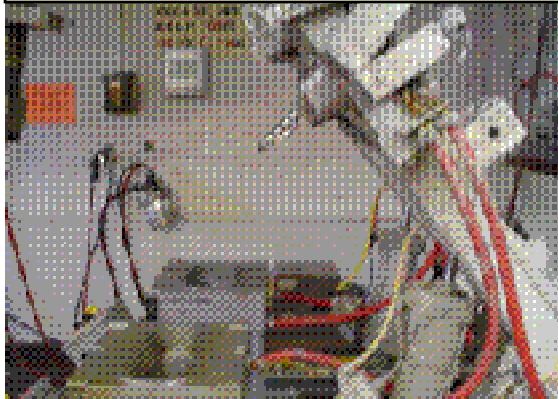




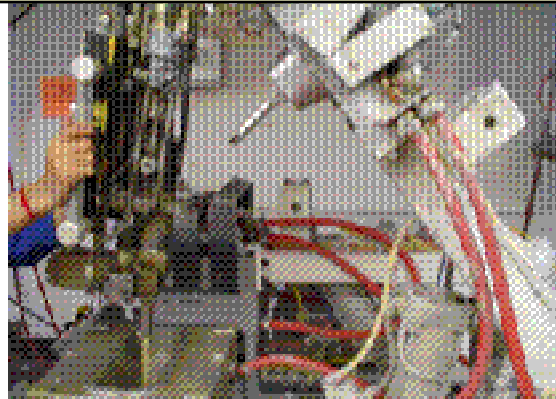
Processing Optimization for Soy Foam Headrests



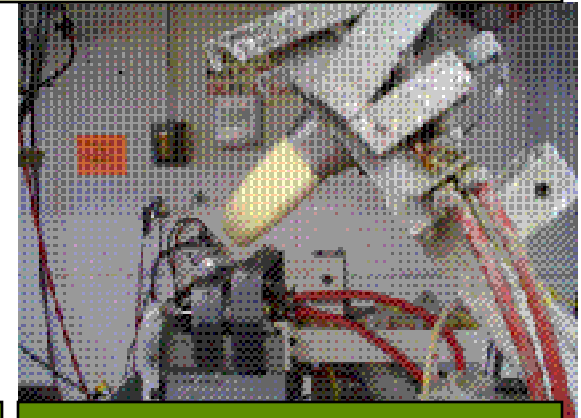
- ⚡ Optimized formulations and processing conditions
 - ⚡ Cycle Time: meets production requirement
 - ⚡ Reactivity profile meets manufacturing setup
 - ⚡ Molded HR meets production level quality
- ⚡ Issues identified: blend separation, surface skinning, tear resistance



Impingement mixing
Temperature
controlled tool



Polyol/iso mixture is
poured into tool



Molded polyurethane
using 20% soy in foam
(40% b-side)



Headrest Trimming Process



- “Foam on stick” placed on fixture



- Vacuum compresses foam
- Plastic covering placed on foam



- Final trim piece inserted over foam
- Vacuum released





Foam Tests from Each Trial

- Density
- Tensile Strength
- Elongation
- Heat Aged Tensile
- Heat Aged Elongation
- Tear Resistance
- Compression Set (as received -50%)
- Compression Set (steam autoclave aged - 50%)
- Compression Set (as received -75%)
- Compression Set (steam aged -75%)
- Sag Factor
- Recovery
- Staining
- Fogging
- Odor
- Load Indentation
- Aged Loss
- Flammability





Material Performance of MDI Soy Foam Headrests



Property Description	Units	Target	Soy Foam	Comments
1. Core Density	Kg/m ³	As per drawing	37	Pass
2. Tensile Strength	kPa	82 min	174	Pass
3. Elongation	%	80 min	112	Pass
4. Compression Set	%	10 max (cushions)	2.8	Pass
5. IFD @ 50% Deflection	N	As Per Drawing	280	Pass
6. Staining	Visual	No Stain	No Staining	Pass
7. Fogging	%	70 min.	98 (dried droplets)	Pass
8. Odor	Rating	2 max	2	Pass
9. Aged Flexibility	Visual	No Splitting or Crumbling after Aging	OK	Pass



TDI Based Soy Foam Seat: Process Optimization



- Completed 2 trials at Renosol Seating Plant with Mustang Front Seat Cushion and Back Foam
- Molded TDI formulation with 5% Soy contents
- Adjusted minor process parameters
- Parts molded met current production quality appearance





Material Performance of TDI Soy Foam Seats



Properties	Target	Soy Foam
1. Density (kg/m ³)	50	50
2. Hardness (N)	280	285
3. Tensile: (kPa)	82 min	172
4. Elongation: (%)	80 min	150
5. Tear Strength: (N/m)	450 min	664
6. Compression Set 75%:	10% max	10%
7. Compression Set HA 75%:	25%	9%
8. Flammability: (mm/min.)	100 max	SE





TDI Based Soy Foam Seat: Process Optimization

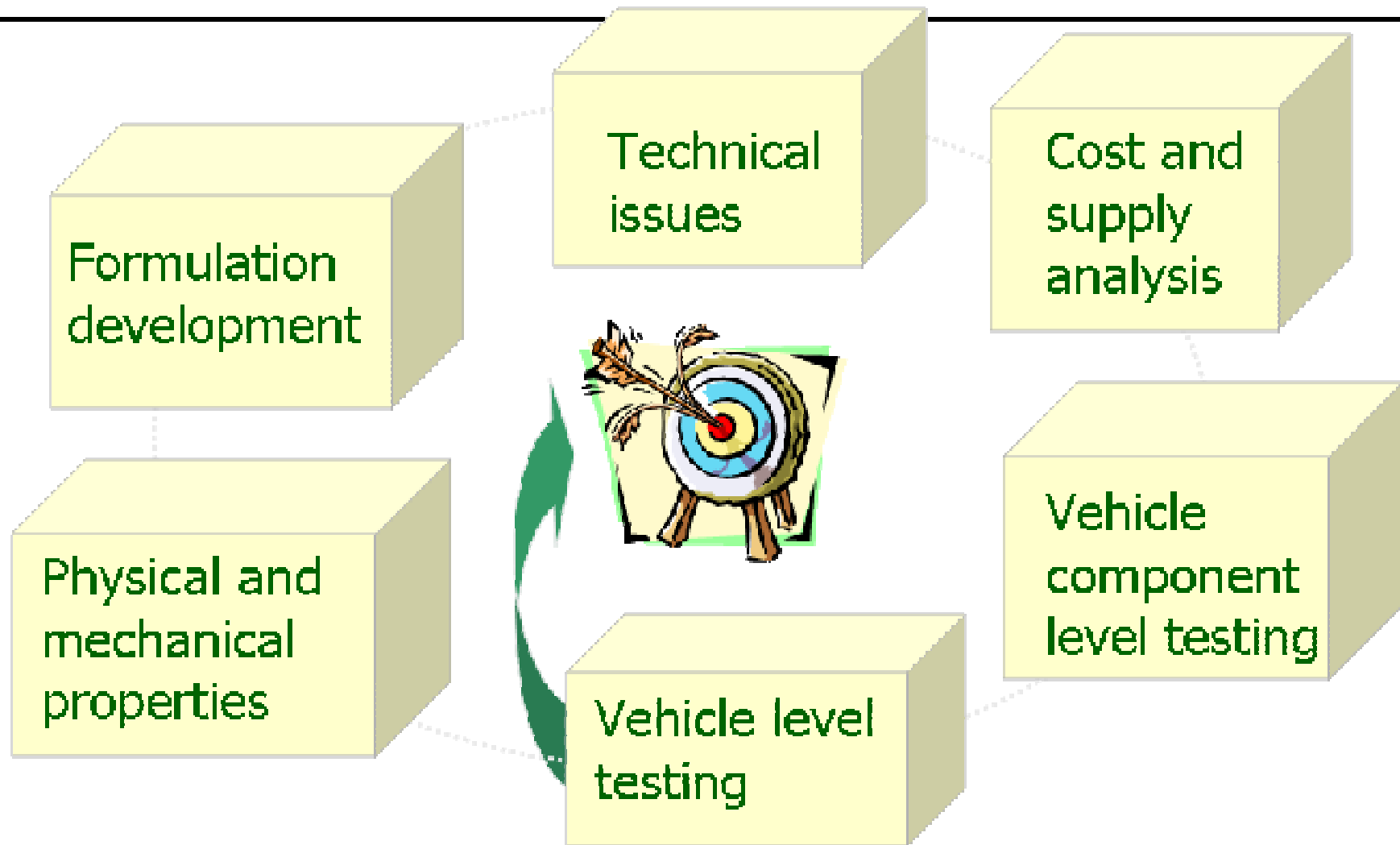


- Completed prototype molding trials with Lear using front seat cushion tooling
- Molded TDI formulation with 5% soy contents
- Parts molded met current production quality standards
- Passed property requirements including flammability and tensile strength





Key Steps Towards Implementation





Challenges of Soy Foam: Business Considerations

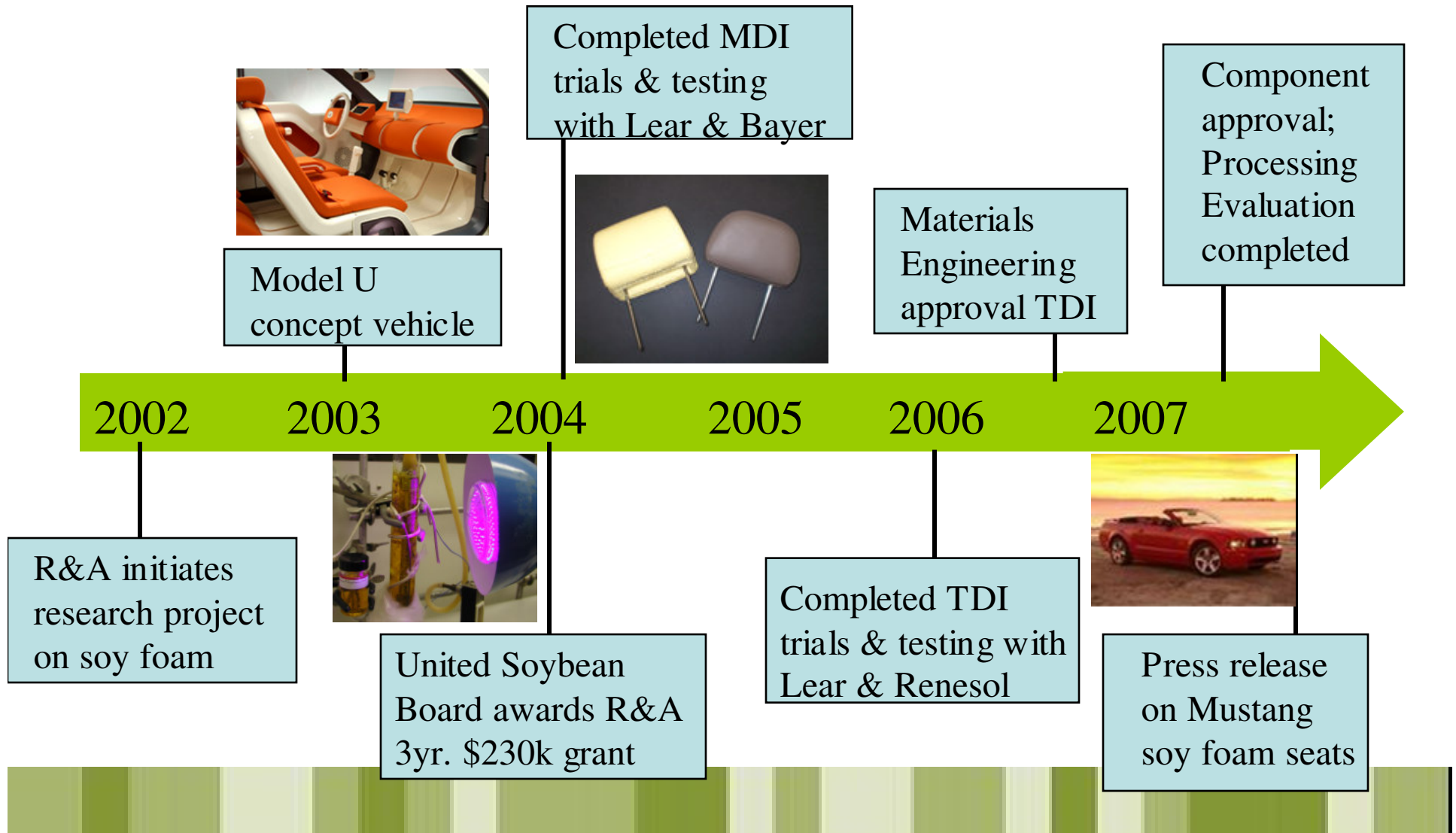


- 1st implementer paving the way
 - Materials specifications
 - Program support
- Cost evaluation of final product
 - Quantity of material needed
- Plant complexity
 - Additional chemical line or tank
 - Multiple products
- Supply chain availability





Ford Motor Company Soy Foam Progression





Implementation of Soy Foam on 2008 Mustang

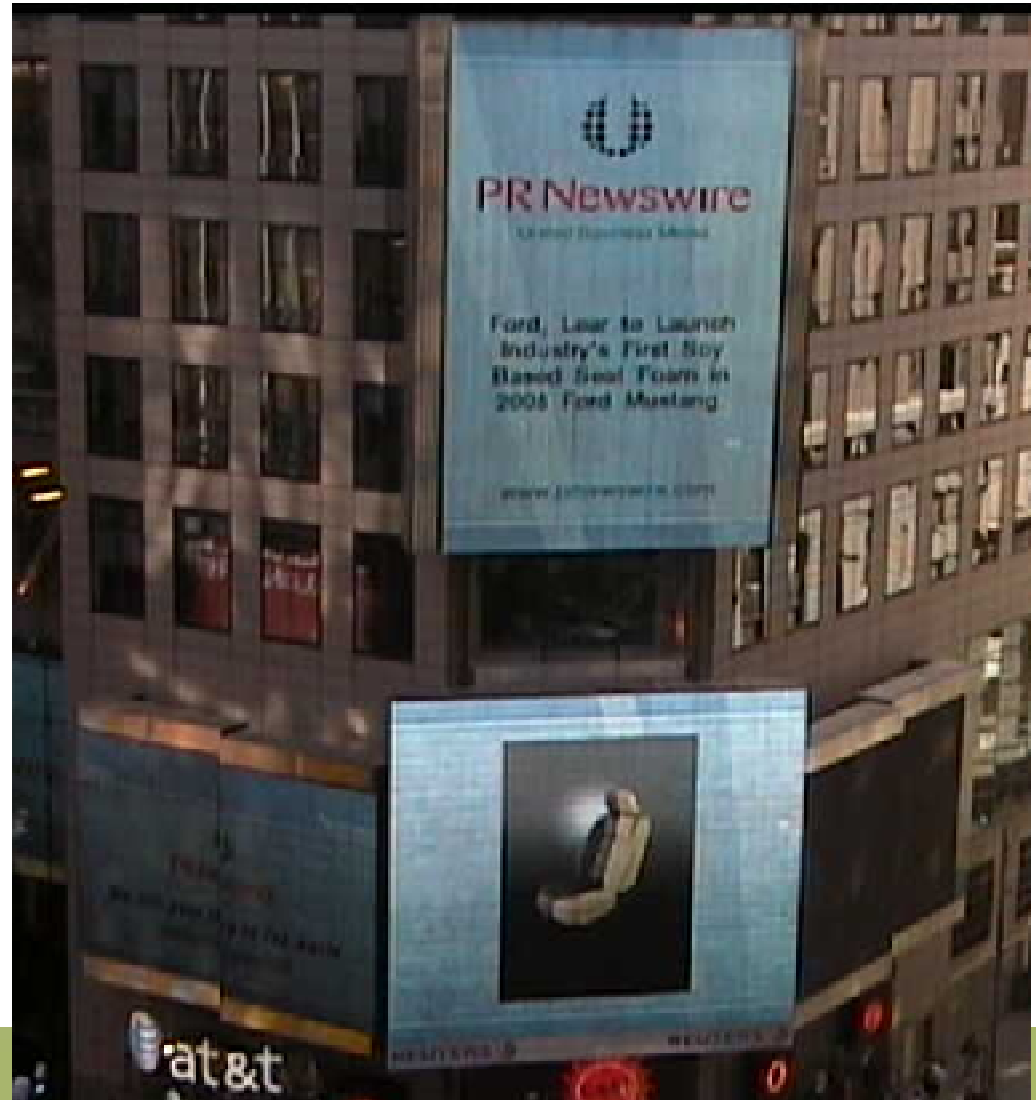


- Seat supplier: Lear Corporation
- Applications: seat cushion, seat back
- Soy content: 5% by pad weight
- Implemented August, 2007





Times Square, New York, July 2007





Positive Media Attention



Ford puts the green under your seat

Written October 14, 2006 by Via Ford Motor Co.

While many in the auto industry are experimenting with a 5% soy-based polyol – one of the many ingredients used to create the foam used in vehicles – Ford researchers have formulated the chemistry to replace a staggering 40% of the standard petroleum-based polyol with a soy-derived material.

Ford Mustang Press on Soy Foam

- CNN, Forbes, Wall St. Journal
- Finance, Farming, Auto Articles
- Over 200 media outlets covered soy foam story



Ford and Honda Join Toyota as Leaders in Using Environmentally-Friendly, Safe Plastics for Car Interiors
Second Annual Ecology Center Report Grades Auto Manufacturers On Use of Sustainable, Non-Toxic Materials for Interior Parts Leaders Applauded for Use of Bio-Based Materials

Press Release

Lear Corp.



Release date: December 14, 2006

Lear Introduces SoyFoam(TM) Technology for Automotive Seating Applications
SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Dec. 14 -- Lear Corporation (NYSE:LEA), one of the world's leading automotive interior suppliers, today announced it has developed SoyFoam(TM), a soybean oil-based flexible foam material for automotive interior applications.



Technology Migration: Programs Using Soy Foam



- Ford Mustang
- Ford Expedition
- Lincoln Navigator
- Ford F-150
- Ford Escape
- Mercury Mariner
- Mazda Tribute
- Ford Focus





Soy-Based Foam Awards



- "The Excellence in New Uses Award" by the New Uses Committee, United Soybean Board, Tampa, Florida, February 2007.
- "Plastic Materials from Renewable Resources Award" by the SPE Global Plastics Environmental Conference, March 2008 to Ford Motor Company and Lear Corporation.
- "Environmental Excellence in Transportation, E2T, Award" by SAE International, May 2008, to Ford Motor Company and Lear Corporation.
- "SPE Innovation Award in Environmental Category" by SPE Automotive, November 2008 to Ford Motor Company and Lear Corporation.





Opportunities for Soybeans

- Increased levels of soy polyol in foam applications
- Use of soy oil in other flexible foam applications
- Use of soy meal and soy flour as filler in thermoplastics, rubber and thermosets
- Rigid polyurethane foams using soy polyols



Photo by Scott Bauer,
courtesy of USDA



Roadmap



- Why biomaterials?
- Historical perspective
- Soy foam research and development
- Soy foam implementation
- **Soy meal applications**
- **Looking ahead**



Photo by Scott Bauer,
courtesy of USDA





Can we use the other part

of the bean?



- Technology Overview: Use of soy meal in formulation and processing of automotive plastics.



Photo by Lynn Betts, USDA
Natural Resources
Conservation Services





Soy Protein Filler for Plastics

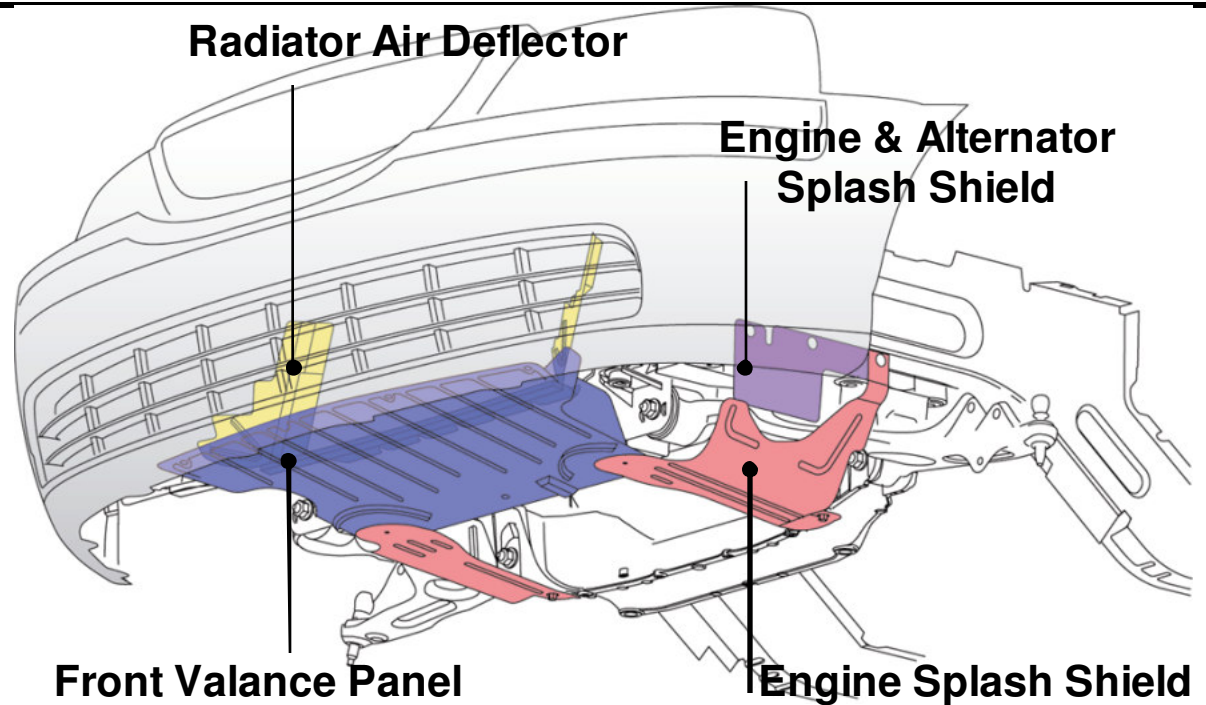


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- **Technology Overview:** Use of soy meal in formulation and processing of automotive plastics.
 - **Benefits:**
 - Low cost alternative filler
 - Use of agricultural byproduct
 - **Goals:**
 - Determine properties of automotive components using soy protein fillers
 - Assess mechanical properties and overcome processing challenges
 - Identify specific automotive components for soy protein filler
 - Mold components in collaboration with automotive Tier 1 suppliers





Molding Soy Meal- EPDM Parts



Schematic courtesy of Hematite mfg.



Next Steps For Biomaterials

- Continued Research support for three main thrust areas in biomaterials projects
- Leverage biomaterial development with material suppliers and non-competing partners
- Work jointly with our Product Development partners to further develop the internal market at Ford for biomaterials
- Complete Ford material and component level testing to obtain material approvals
- Communicate our work and progress to our customers!





Supplier Acknowledgments



Soy Reinforced Rubber

- Hematite Manufacturing
- USB New Uses Committee
- Zeeland Farm Soya
- Lion Copolymer
- CHS Oilseed Processing
- Michigan Soybean Board
- Prof. Amar Mohanty (MSU)

Soy Based Polyurethane Foam

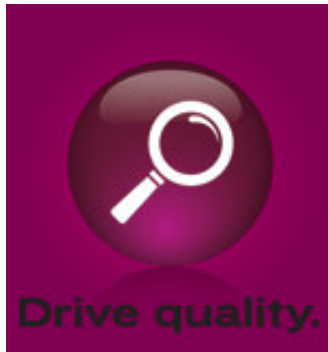
- Ford R&A
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 - Matt Schwalm
 - Brian Witkowski
- Bayer Corporation
- Lear Corporation
- Renosol Corporation
- Urethane Soy Systems Co.
- United Soybean Board
- Omni Tech International





Ford Soy Foam Team Acknowledgements





Questions?